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*Published to advance the Science of cold-blooded vertebrates*

## ICHTHYOLOGICAL NOTES FROM MONTAUK, LONG ISLAND.

The following notes were secured during the course of field work undertaken for the Brooklyn Museum in the early part of August, 1915. Some local names are included in quotation marks:

*Sphyrna zygaena* (Linn.). A Hammerhead, about five feet in length, was seen several miles off Montauk Point on August 8th.

*Clupea harengus* Linn. A specimen about seven inches long was picked up in fairly fresh condition on the ocean beach on August 7. The species seems to be unusual in Long Island waters at this season.

*Brevoortia tyrannus* (Latrobe). The local Menhaden fishery has practically failed this season.

*Scomber scombrus* Linn. "Boston Mackerel." The pound-net fishermen were securing a few of these fish. A number of young mackerel were found in the stomachs of Roseate Terns (*Sterna dougalli*).

*Xiphias gladius* Linn. Single Swordfish were taken by harpoon off Montauk Point on July 10, 14 and 15, 1915, by William D. Parsons, Jr., of Montauk.

*Caranx crysos* (Mitchill). "Jack." A seven-inch specimen was taken in a pound-net on August 11.

*Poronotus triacanthus* (Peck). "Butterfish"; "Shiner." This fish was entering the pound-nets in large numbers in early August.

*Micropterus salmoides* (Lacepede). Abundant in Fort Pond, where it was introduced about 1887. On July 20, 1915, an example having two complete and distinct heads was caught, taken to the Montauk Inn, and eaten. It was an adult in good condition.

*Morone americana* (Gmelin). Exceedingly abundant in Fort Pond, Great Pond, and Reed Pond. These waters are now landlocked, but were stocked about thirty years ago. On August 11 no less than 75 White Perch were caught in Fort Pond by two girls and a boy. This body of water, unlike Great Pond, is quite fresh. The largest of the fish weighed just under a pound. Some of the local seafarers have a curious notion that these perch have become "transformed" from some distant salt-water species. Unfortunately, those caught are seldom eaten, and we saw one large lot fed to hogs.

*Centropriestes striatus* (Linn.). Many Sea Bass were being taken on hand-lines off Montauk Point, and we saw hundreds enclosed in pounds in Fort Pond Bay, where they are kept for a better market later in the season. Meanwhile they are fed on chopped squid, fish entrails, etc. This year the species is affected by an eye disease, which Capt. E. B. Tuthill says he observed also ten or twelve years ago. Some fish, when caught, are seen to have their eyes covered with a whitish film. Subsequently the eye begins to bulge out, and the outer surface to disintegrate, hanging in white shreds. At this stage the unfortunate victims are pursued by their fellows, which bite at the protruding eyes, causing death after a number of hours.

*Spheroides maculatus* (Bloch & Schneider). A specimen 9½ inches in total length was taken on August 11.

*Chilomycterus schoepfi* (Walbaum). "Porcupine-fish." A specimen was taken in a pound-net at Fort Pond Bay on August 11, but was thrown away

before we saw it. A few are said to have been caught at the same place earlier in the summer.

*Mola mola* (Linn.). "Sunfish." One was taken by William D. Parsons, Jr., on July 15 at sea south of Montauk Point. It was captured with Swordfish tackle, and cut up for use as lobster bait.

*Merluccius bilinearis* (Mitchill) "Whiting." A few of these fish were taken by a pound-net fisherman on August 11.

*Urophycis chuss* (Walbaum) "Ling." A small specimen was picked out of a boatload of pound-net fish on August 11.

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## NOTES ON FISHES NEAR NEW YORK.

In COPEIA No. 2, February, 1914, occur dates of local occurrence of marine fishes in autumn and early winter. Examination of Dr. Wiegmann's notes shows a number of records which are late or otherwise of interest, not published at that time. With these we here include one or two records of specimens received at the American Museum of Natural History.

*Mustelus canis*. December 13, 1913 (Coney Island).

*Galeocerdo tigrinus*. A large tiger shark was captured off Islip, Long Island, Sept. 11, 1915. The head was sent to the American Museum by Captain John C. Doxsee.

*Raja ocellata*. December 30, 1911 (Seventeen-fathom Banks).

*Leptocephalus conger*. "Silver Eel." December 30, 1911 (Seventeen-fathom Banks).

*Pomolobus pseudoharengus*. December 18, 1913 (Coney Island).

*Brevoortia tyrannus*. December 5, 1913 (Coney Island).